



Big Thicket National Preserve

Sat. & Sun. Spring Activities 2010



All NPS Activities are Free! Call 951-6700 for more information

February

Friday February 19

Night hike on the Kirby Nature Trail at 6:00 p.m.: Many of the animals of the Big Thicket are most active at night. Meet at the Kirby Nature Trail located 8 miles north of Kountze, TX, off FM 420 for a short hike to experience this nighttime world. Bring a flashlight.

Saturday February 20

Sundew Trail Hike at 9:30 a.m.: This 1-mile hike shows you an upland pine savannah with carnivorous sundew plants and pitcher plants. Meet the Ranger at the Sundew Trail located 14 ½ miles north of Kountze, TX, off FM 2827.

Sunday February 21

Kirby Nature Trail Hike at 1:00 p.m.: This 1.7-mile hike takes you through a slope forest, baygall, cypress slough, and floodplain along Village Creek. Meet the Ranger at the trailhead located 8 miles north of Kountze, TX, on FM 420.

March

Saturday March 6

Cardinal Cruise on the Neches River at 10:00 a.m. \$15, under 6 yrs \$5: Join a Ranger on the Lamar University pontoon boat for a 2-hour exploration of the river, sloughs, and history of the Neches River. For group reservations and information, call 409-880-8907.

Saturday March 13

Wildflower Walk on Sundew Trail at 9:30 a.m.: Look for violets and other early bloomers on this 1-mile hike through an upland pine savannah with carnivorous sundew plants and pitcher plants. Meet the Ranger at the Sundew Trail located 14 ½ miles north of Kountze, TX, off FM 2827.

Saturday March 13

Pitcher Plant Trail at 10:00 a.m.: Join a Ranger to explore the ecology of this easy 1-mile loop trail. Meet at the trailhead on Pin Oak Road (FM 4850), 5 miles east of Warren, TX, off 1943.

Sunday March 14

Sandhill Loop Hike at 1:00 p.m.: This 5-mile hike takes you to an arid sandyland along Turkey Creek where prickly pear cacti grow amid leaf cutter ants. Meet the Ranger at the Kirby Nature Trail trailhead located 8 miles north of Kountze, TX, on FM 420. This is a moderately difficult 3-hour hike. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water and food.

Saturday March 20

Bird walk on the Sundew Trail at 7:00 a.m.: Rare birds such as the brown-headed nuthatch and the Bachman's sparrow can be heard calling along this trail in the spring. Join a Ranger on this 1-mile hike through an upland pine savannah with carnivorous sundew plants and pitcher plants. Meet the Ranger at the Sundew Trail located 14 ½ miles north of Kountze, TX, off FM 2827.

Sunday March 21

Birdwatchers Trail hike at 1:00 p.m.: This ½-mile trail takes you to the confluence of Menard Creek and the Trinity River. It meanders through a mature hardwood forest consisting of Cottonwood Trees and large climbing vines. It is a rare remnant of primordial Big Thicket. Meet the Ranger at the trailhead located 2 miles north of Romayor, TX, off FM 2610.

Saturday March 27

Discovery Hike on the Sundew Trail at 8:30 a.m.: This easy 1-mile loop trail is known for its bird life and unusual plants. Join a Ranger to see what's flying and blooming. Meet at the trailhead on CR 1910, approximately 14 ½ miles north of Kountze, TX.

Saturday March 27

Bears in the Big Thicket at 2:30 p.m.: Once common in this area, black bears are now listed as a threatened species in the State of Texas. Meet at the Visitor Center located 8 miles north of Kountze, TX, off U.S. 69 to learn about black bear ecology and management.

April

Saturday April 3

Cardinal Cruise on the Neches River at 10:00 a.m. \$15, under 6 yrs \$5: Join Rangers on the Lamar University pontoon boat for a 2-hour exploration of the river, sloughs, and history of the Neches River. Advanced reservations are not needed for Saturday excursions. For group reservations and information call, 409-880-8907

Saturday April 3

Canoe Cooks Lake at 10:00 a.m.: This 4-mile or 3-hour paddling excursion takes you up the Neches River, up Pine Island Bayou, and into Cooks Lake. Explore the cypress/tupelo swamps and flood forests along the Neches River. Meet the Ranger at the Saltwater Barrier in Beaumont, TX. Turn south off East Lucas onto Bigner and continue for two miles to the boat ramp. Bring a canoe or kayak, life preserver, water, food, hat, and sunscreen. Reservations are required, please call 951-6700.

Sunday April 4

Pitcher Plant Hike at 1:00 p.m.: Journey through an upland pine savannah with carnivorous sundew plants and pitcher plants. Join a Ranger on this easy 1-mile loop trail to explore this area. Meet at the trailhead on the Pin Oak Road (FM 4850), 5 miles east of Warren, TX, off 1943.

Saturday April 10

Canoe Village Creek at 10:00 a.m.: Canoe through the Roy E. Larson Sandylands Sanctuary on Village Creek. You will need to provide your own canoe and shuttle. Bring a life preserver, water, food, hat and sunscreen. Meet the Ranger at the FM 418 launch on Village Creek. Reservations are required, please call 951-6700.

Sunday April 11

Sundew Trail Hike at 1:00 p.m.: This 1-mile hike shows you an upland pine savannah with carnivorous sundew plants and pitcher plants. Meet the Ranger at the Sundew Trail located 14 ½ miles north of Kountze, TX, off FM 2827.

May

Saturday May 1

Cardinal Cruise on the Neches River 10:00 a.m. \$15, under 6 yrs \$5: Join Rangers on the Lamar University pontoon boat for a 2-hour exploration of the river, sloughs, and history of the Neches River. Advanced reservations are not needed for Saturday excursions. For group reservations and information call, 409-880-8907

Sunday May 8

Sundew Trail Hike at 9:30 a.m.: This 1-mile hike shows you an upland pine savannah with carnivorous sundew plants and pitcher plants. Meet the Ranger at the Sundew Trail located 14 ½ miles north of Kountze, TX, off FM 2827.

Saturday May 22

Edgewater hike at 9:30 a.m.: Ranger led walk along the Pine Island Bayou in Beaumont, TX. Don't miss the rare opportunity to walk with a Ranger in a scenic get-a-way right in town! Meet the Ranger at the end of Broad Oak Drive. From Beaumont head north on U.S. 69, exit Tram Road. Follow the feeder road past Tram Road to Broad Oak Drive.